problem of the unemployment of the literate, to improve methods of agriculture and to add to the food-supply of the country and the earning capacity of its citizens. An analogous scheme, suggested by Captain Petavel of Calcutta, is now receiving encouragement in Bengal at the hands of such distinguished men as Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, while, in the neighbouring province of Madras, another retired High Court Judge and an ex-Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly is engaged in developing a similar scheme with the aid of private effort.

11. Land Conservancy and Land Records. The conservation of *porambokes* and other Government lands required for public purposes, attenuated by indiscriminate occupations and assignments in the past, is of no less concern to the landholder than the availability of lands which may be legitimately used for cultivation; and it was with a view, among other things, to achieve some tangible results in this direction that the scope of the land records maintenance scheme was revised in 1096, its operation being mainly restricted to the inspection of *porambokes*, the detection of encroachments thereon, and the survey, demarcation and plotting of *poramboke* numbers and their sub-divisions. In the discharge of this important function, the Land Records staff has shown more satisfactory results in 1098 than in the previous years, due evidently to the greater experience gained by the Assistant Tahsildars and their staff and the undivided attention which the Assistant Superintendent of Survey has been able to devote to the supervision of their work in his new capacity of Land Records Superintendent. The refixing of theodolite stations was practically completed and a proportionately larger outturn than in the previous years was secured under other heads of work from the staff employed. The dual control of the Peishkars and the Land Records Superintendent, to which Assistant Tahsildars and their staff were subject till the close of 1098, having been found to hamper the celerity of their work, they have been now placed directly under the control of the Land Records Superintendent, the Peishkars and the Tahsildars having nothing to do with them until their field work is finished and the records sent over to the Tahsildars. Moreover, the rules issued under the Land Conservancy Regulation, IV of 1091, are now better understood and have become acceptable to the public as a result of the substantial concessions referred to in paragraph 7 of my last year's Address. It is therefore to be hoped that this important item of land records work will be soon completed. The functions of the Revenue, Public Works and other departments as well as of Municipal Councils, in the matter of future conservation of *porambokes*, have now been clearly defined, and there can be no excuse hereafter for dilatoriness on the part of any officer in that respect.

12. Transfer of registry. In addition to its main function of the survey of *porambokes* and the detection of encroachment, the Land Records staff, on its reorganisation, was entrusted with the survey of sub-divisions involved in pending *pokkuvaravu* cases. The work so turned out has come up to 38,806 sub-divisions in the course of a little over two years and transfer of registry has presumably been effected in most of these cases. This is satisfactory so far as it goes; but recently a closer scrutiny of the *pokkuvaravu* cases still pending revealed the fact that there were more than 53,000 such cases awaiting disposal in the several taluks, and that, of these, as many as 44,000 roughly were cases involving sub-divisions and could not, under the existing rules, be disposed of without a survey of the sub-divisions involved. Government were thus confronted with the problem of the disposal of this huge volume of *pokkuvaravu* arrears which had to be done within the short space of about 15 months, should the electoral roll for the next general elections to the Legislative Council, due in 1100 M. E., make any approach to accuracy; and it has in consequence been decided that, inasmuch as the areas ascertained by sub division survey could not, when they differed from those specified in the documents of transfer, be adopted in the decisions in *pokkuvaravu* cases, under G. O. No. 7195/L. R., dated the 22nd November, 1917, such survey as regards the pending and future *pokkuvaravu* cases might well be dispensed with for the present, and that all those cases might be disposed of on the basis of the areas entered in the documents of transfer. Under this simplified arrangement, it must be possible for the normal Land Revenue staff to wipe off the arrears under *pokkuvaravu* before the revision of the electoral roll becomes due next year. But even for expediting the work under this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

arrangement, the Dewan Peishkars may not, with their multifarious duties, find the necessary time, and consequently the Superindendent of Survey has been charged with the supervision of this work in all the taluks of the three divisions in the plains for a period of 15 months from Makaram 1099, the respective Tahsildars and the *pakuthi* staff being placed under the control of this officer in respect of this work.

13. Administration of Land Revenue. The scheme of annual *jamabandi*, alluded to in may Address last year, was brought into force, during the last quarter of 1098, in the Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam Divisions, while that work will, on account of the peculiar climatic conditions of the Devicolam Division, be introduced there only in Minam or Medam this year. The object of this scheme is to afford regular facilities to the superior land revenue officers to conduct a uniform and efficient examination of revenue registers and accounts kept in the village and taluk offices and to fix correctly the land revenue demand for the year, thereby preventing leakage of revenue. A standard check memorandum, calculated to put the *jamabandi* officer in touch with the work of the villages and taluks dealt with by him, has been prescribed; and from all accounts the first *jamabandi* has been attended with success. The quarterly inspection of taluk offices by Division Peishkars has now been made annual, and it has been ordered that these officers should, at the time of their inspection, see that the defects pointed out by the *jamabandi* officers have been really rectified. The Land Revenue Commissioner has also been instructed to conduct a similar annual inspection of all the taluk offices. Fourteen taluks in the three Divisions—Trivandrun, Quilon and Kottayam—have been constituted into seven sub-division charges and placed under the immediate control of Division Assistants. The relative position of the Peishkars and the Division Assistants in respect of these taluks has been defined, and certain revenue and administrative powers and functions, including the conduct of *jamabandi*, have been devolved on the Division Assistants. This arrangement, however desirable, is found from experience to be not altogether free from defects, and it is becoming increasingly evident that the Division Assistants are unable to keep clear of arrears on account of the substantial addition which the revenue and income-tax functions have contributed to their otherwise exclusively magisterial work, while the restrictions to their movements imposed by considerations of convenience to the litigant public are militating against their usefulness as revenue officers. Possibly their revenue duties have also the effect of hampering their work as Magistrates. In view of these considerations and the desirability of taking a further step forward in the matter of separating judicial from executive functions, which has been repeatedly pressed on their attention, Government are considering the question whether some of the Division Assistants may not be detailed exclusively for revenue work, while releasing the others for purely judicial work, even though the scheme may involve an addition to the *cadre* of Division Assistants. It would, of course, be part of this scheme to provide for the periodical exchange of the two sets of Division Assistants so as to ensure all-round knowledge and experience to the officers concerned.

14. Collection of Revenue. With a view to facilitate the collection of revenue, the Revenue Recovery Regulation has been suitably amended by Regulation X of 1097, and orders have been issued with a view to gradually stop the practice of village officers going from door to door for the collection of *kist*, *pattadars* being now required to take their dues to the *pakuthi* cutcherry.

15. Agricultural Loans. It is gratifying to note that the revised rules issued under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation, IX of 1094, continue to be popular. As against 56 applications for such loans in 1096, 474 applications were received in 1097 and 452 in 1098, the total amounts of loans sanctioned during these two years being Rs. 96,236 and Rs. 92,534 respectively, and that disbursed during the first four months of 1099 being Rs. 36,050. Of about 150 applications for loans sanctioned in 1098, 15 applications were for loans below Rs. 100, 33 between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, 20 between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300, 14 between Rs. 300 and Rs. 400, and 43 between Rs. 400 and Rs. 500. 125 of the applications sanctioned during the year thus related to small loans for varying amounts ranging up to Rs. 500, from which it will be seen that the benefits of this scheme are really reaching the poorer section of the agricultural population for whose amelioration it has been primarily introduced.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly